

Kassandra Pugliese  
University of Connecticut  
SB 966  
March 12, 2015 Public Hearing

Good Afternoon members of the higher education committee

My name is Kassandra Pugliese, and I am a sophomore at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Human Development of Family Studies and Women and Gender Studies. I am here today to passionately ask that you support the bill to allow Safe Nurses to provide services on College Campuses. My Rationale is simple; survivors of rape are not provided with the sensitive well trained services of a safe nurse quickly enough after an incident of sexual assault takes place. It is imperative that we have every resource necessary to support survivors as soon as possible. If we don't have these resources available to our survivors there can be a multitude of consequences. STATISTICS OF CONSEQUENCES. As the American Academy for Stress Disorders states:

“Dealing with the after effects of rape is a nightmare. The physical hurts can often soon be mended, but it's the inner pain that people can't see that takes longest. It's also the hardest to deal with because it's not like healing after surgery, there is no set time limit. The emotional scars can stay with us a lifetime.” – *American Academy for Stress Disorders* <http://www.aaets.org/article178.htm>

The first responders while important part of the investigatory and care process at our University are not trained in sensitive victim-specific care like SAFE nurses are. SAFE nurses are not only trained to deal with the physical pain, but also the emotional. As a result, of the inability to have SAFE nurses to apply care at colleges and universities, many survivors of sexual assault must go through a more traumatic and painful experience. In fact many students are deterred from having themselves treated because of the traumatic, excessive experience that is currently our process. We have the ability with this bill to help our students have a less traumatic experience after a sexual assault takes place. Please help us help our students. Thank you very much for your time.